Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims 1-12 will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A high-pressure discharge lamp comprising: a discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (11) which contains an ionizable filling, the discharge vessel (10) having a first (2) and a second (3) mutually opposed neck-shaped portion provided with a pair of electrodes (6, 7) ~~arranged in~~ **protruding substantially into** the discharge space (13), each electrode (6, 7) being tubular over its entire length, at least one of the electrodes (6, 7) being directly coupled at an end not arranged in the discharge space, to a rod (15) which is coupled at a distal end to a current-supply conductor (5), a melting-ceramic joint (21) being provided between the current-supply conductor (5), the rod (15) and a wall of the respective first (2) and a second (3) mutually opposed neck-shaped portions, thereby providing a gas-tight closure of the discharge space.

2. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrodes (6, 7) are free from coils in the discharge space (13).

3. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrodes (6, 7) extend to outside the discharge vessel (10).

4. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 3, wherein the electrodes (6, 7) are each partially filled with a rod (15) welded to a side of the electrodes (6, 7) facing away from the discharge space (13).

5. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the rod (15) extends into the discharge space (13).

6. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio between the inner diameter d_{in} and the outer diameter d_{out} of the electrodes (6, 7) is in the range:

$$0.2 < d_{in} / d_{out} < 0.8.$$

7. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner diameter of the tubular electrodes (6, 7) is at least 20 μm.

8. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ratio of the outer diameter d_{out} of the tubular electrodes (6, 7) and the inner diameter d_{nsp} of the neck-shaped portions (2, 3) is in the range:

$$0.2 < d_{out} / d_{nsp} < 0.8.$$

9. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrodes (6, 7) are made of tungsten.

10. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio between the electric current I_{mhl} of the high-pressure discharge lamp and the outer diameter d_{out} of the electrodes (6, 7) is in the range:

$$2 < I_{mhl} / (d^2_{out} / d^2_{in}) < 6,$$

wherein the electric current is expressed in amperes and the diameter in millimeters.

11. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rod (15) is made from one of molybdenum or cermet.

12. (Previously Presented) A high-pressure discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the current-supply conductor (5) is made from niobium.